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MFG. 1-72

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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TO RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 7480

INFO RUESUA/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 1292

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BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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SUBJECT: TUNNEY AMENDMENT ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. WITHOUT WARNING OR PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH DEPARTMENT, CALIFORNIA SENATOR TUNNEY ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23, INTRODUCED AN AMENDMENT ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND FMS SALES TO BRAZIL UNTIL THE PRESIDENT REPORTED TO CONGRESS THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAS DETERMINED THAT GOB IS NOT ENGAGING IN TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. DEPARTMENT HAS EXPRESSED ITS DEEP CONCERN TO VARIOUS SENATORS THAT PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT NOT ONLY WOULD FAIL TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE, BUT WOULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE OUR RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL. IT NOTED GOOD RELATIONS PRESENTLY EXISTING WHICH COULD BE PREJUDICED BY AMENDMENT AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FMS TO CONTINUED MILITARY SUPPLY BY U.S. RECORD OF EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN TO GOB REGARDING TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND CHURCH COMMITTEE TESTIMONY ALSO CITED.

2. SPECIFIC PRESS GUIDANCE ON IF-ASKED BASIS AS FOLLOWS;
QUESTION: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE LUNNEY AMENDMENT OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BILL?
(ADVISORY: THE TUNNEY AMENDMENT WOULD SUSPEND U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SALES TO BRAZIL UNTIL THE PRESIDENT REPORTS TO CONGRESS THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

State Dept. review completed

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HAS DETERMINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL IS NOT ENGAGING IN THE TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.) SUGGESTED REPLY: LIKE ALL FRIENDS OF BRAZIL WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE EXPRESSED THIS CONCERN ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT OPPOSES THE AMENDMENT AND HOPES THAT IT WILL BE WITHDRAWN BY ITS SPONSORS. WE CONSIDER THAT THE AMENDMENT WILL NOT ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE AND THAT IT WILL DAMAGE OUR RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL. THE SUBJECT WAS THOROUGHLY AIRED DURING HEARINGS BEFORE SENATOR CHURCH'S SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. MEMBERS OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INCIDENTS OF BRUTALITY HAVE OCCURRED BUT DENY THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF POLICY. WE ARE ALWAYS DUBIOUS ABOUT THE UTILITY OF FORCING ANY NATION TO ACT UNDER SUCH THREATS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO INFLUENCE OTHER NATIONS.

3. AMENDMENT EXPECTED TO COME UP FOR VOTE TUESDAY, JUNE 27.

4. BRAZILIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOLLOWING MATTER CLOSELY. WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. IRWIN
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